

# NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



## Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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### Intended Acreage of Corn, Peas and Tomatoes for Canning

The Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates of the Department of Agriculture has issued the following figures on acreage that canners expect will be planted in 1929, expressed as a percentage of the 1928 acreage:

States	Corn		Peas		Tomatoes	
	1928 acreage	1929 % of 1928	1928 acreage	1929 % of 1928	1928 acreage	1929 % of 1928
Arkansas	.....	.....	.....	.....	19,600	103
California	.....	.....	1,230	100	25,790	112
Colorado	.....	.....	3,000	75	1,600	108
Delaware	4,060	97	2,060	115	13,500	95
Illinois	54,880	101	10,340	100	5,130	100
Indiana	27,390	100	3,760	100	49,870	109
Iowa	39,860	108	.....	.....	4,810	99
Kentucky	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,030	113
Maine	10,770	107	920	100	.....	.....
Maryland	30,800	105	8,720	110	22,710	102
Michigan	8,930	95	11,930	60	1,660	102
Minnesota	25,340	115	7,890	105	.....	.....
Missouri	.....	.....	.....	.....	18,780	103
Nebraska	3,470	100	.....	.....	(a)	.....
New Hampshire	1,110	100	.....	.....	.....	.....
New Jersey	.....	.....	.....	.....	35,000	104
New York	27,000	99	31,970	108	11,170	103
Ohio	27,910	99	3,320	102	10,400	104
Pennsylvania	3,640	112	1,680	100	3,600	114
Tennessee	(a)	.....	(a)	.....	10,320	92
Texas	.....	.....	10,150	108	4,950	117
Vermont	1,940	100	.....	.....	.....	.....
Virginia	.....	.....	(a)	.....	6,000	101
Wisconsin	14,780	98	101,000	108	(a)	.....
Other States	5,300	88	8,350	103	4,070	97
Total or average .....	280,180	103	286,370	104	254,810	105

(a) Included in "Other States."

Reports received from canners numbered 527. There were 177 reports on corn, 54 indicating increases, 25 decreases, and others no change; 153 reports on peas; 55 indicating increases, 17 decreases, and others no change; 324 reports on tomatoes, 132 indicating increases, 58 decreases, and others no change.

Canners reporting represent 48.6 per cent of the acreage of sweet corn in 1928, 47.6 per cent of the acreage of peas, and 47.7 per cent of the acreage of tomatoes.

#### Conventions of Grocers Associations

The annual convention of the American Wholesale Grocers Association will be held in the Peabody Hotel, Memphis, Tenn., on May 21-23.

The National Association of Retail Grocers will hold its thirty-second annual convention at Portland, Oregon, on June 24-27.

A Sectional Meeting of the National Wholesale Grocers Association will be held on June 24-26 in Portland.

#### Bermuda Vegetable Shipments

Total shipments of Bermuda vegetables from the beginning of the season on November 17, 1928, to March 31, 1929, amounted to 4,238,000 pounds as compared with 5,923,000 pounds during the corresponding period last season, according to a report from the American consul at Hamilton.

#### Germany Prohibits Importation of Corned Beef

Importation of corned beef and "lunchbeef" is reported to have been prohibited by decree just passed by the German Cabinet, according to a report from the American trade commissioner at Hamburg. The decree is effective as of April 1, but contracts entered into for purchase of such goods prior to April 1 are to be allowed entry until the end of this month.

#### California Canned Fig Pack

The California pack of canned figs in 1928, according to figures compiled by the Canners League of California in cooperation with the Southern California Canners Association, was 218,544 cases of all grades and sizes in tin, and 314,626 pounds in glass. The pack in 1927 was 155,615 cases in tin, and 432,928 pounds in glass.

#### Peach Pruning Bulletin

"Peach Pruning in Maryland" is the title of bulletin No. 299, issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Maryland at College Park, Md.

### Labeling Bill Introduced in Congress

The bill to amend the Food and Drugs Act so as to require the informative labeling of canned foods of inferior quality was introduced in the House by Representative Mapes of Michigan, at the special session of Congress which convened on April 15, and was referred to the Committee on Agriculture. At the last Congress it was designated as H. R. 15218; in the present Congress it is H. R. 730. The bill is identical with the measure pending before the last Congress.

Immediately after convening on Monday, the House organized by electing Representative Longworth speaker and selecting other officials and by adopting the rules in force at the last session. Similar action in the Senate was unnecessary as it is a continuing body. Bills to the number of 698 were introduced in the House on Monday. The Senate adjourned that day after a brief session during which tribute was paid to the late Ambassador Herrick.

President Hoover's message was laid before the House and Senate on Tuesday and the Senate received a number of nominations. The House elected members for the Committees on Ways and Means, Agriculture, and Rules, and 262 additional bills were introduced.

The Senate, with all its committees selected, is in position to consider any measure that may be introduced. In the House it is evidently planned to limit the scope of legislation by limiting the number of Committees organized. By completing the Committees on Agriculture and Ways and Means, the House is in position to take action on measures relating to farm relief and to the tariff. If other legislation such as that providing for the decennial census is to be considered, other committees will have to be organized.

The general farm relief bill (H. R. 1) was introduced in the House by Representative Haugen and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, of which he is chairman. Other bills relating to agriculture were introduced by various members, including Representative Haugen, and these measures were likewise referred to the Committee on Agriculture. Among these were:

H. R. 6, by Mr. Haugen, to amend the definition of oleomargarine contained in the Act of August 2, 1886, as amended. Another bill (H. R. 160) proposing to amend the oleomargarine act was introduced by Mr. Linthicum.

H. R. 7, by Mr. Haugen, to amend the U. S. Warehouse Act so as to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to issue to any warehouseman a

license for the conduct of a warehouse or warehouses, in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed in the bill.

H. R. 8, by Mr. Haugen, to amend Section 8 of the Food and Drugs Act so as to penalize slack filling.

Debate on the farm relief bill was begun in the House on Thursday, with an agreement to terminate general debate on Saturday. Consideration under the 5-minute bill begins on Monday, which insures that the House will take final action on the bill early in the week.

The Senate farm relief bill (S. 1) was introduced on Thursday by Senator McNary, Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry. Three hundred other bills were introduced in the Senate the same day, including, among others, bills to provide for the decennial census (S. 2), to prohibit publication of cotton prices in governmental reports (S. 46), to provide for official tests of protein in wheat (S. 101), to suppress unfair and fraudulent practices in marketing perishable agricultural commodities (S. 108). The Senate adjourned from Thursday to Monday.

#### Mediterranean Fruit Fly Discovered in Florida

Following discovery of the Mediterranean fruit fly in Orange County, Fla., at points in or adjacent to Orlando, the Secretary of Agriculture has announced a public hearing at Washington on April 22 to consider the advisability of quarantining the State of Florida on account of this pest, and of restricting or prohibiting the movement of peaches, plums, grapefruit, oranges, and all other hosts of these insects, from that State or from any district therein.

Immediately on the confirmation of the discovery, Doctor Marlatt, chief of the Plant Quarantine and Control Administration of the Department, went to Florida and is working in full cooperation with the State officials. Arrangements were made for intensive scouting of all the adjacent areas in Florida and at this time probably 40 or more trained entomologists are making an intensive search for fruit fly infestations in other parts of Florida and in southern Georgia. The facts developed by this survey will no doubt be placed before the conference next Monday and will necessarily have an important bearing on future quarantine policies.

Growers and packers are cooperating with the State officials and since the discovery no dangerous fruit, or products likely to carry the pest, have been allowed to move from infested orchards

or packing houses. Steps have already been taken to clean up all infested groves and packing plants.

The Mediterranean fruit fly is the most widely distributed and dangerous fruit fly known and occurs in many places in the tropics and subtropics of the New and Old World. Heretofore it has not gained entry into the United States. It attacks a large variety of fruits, including melons, and a restricted number of vegetables.

#### Estimate of California Fruit Crop Damage

The California peach crop this year is expected to be approximately 48 per cent of the 1928 production, and the production of all other tree fruits in that State is reduced as a result of recent freezes, according to the Crop Reporting Board of the Department of Agriculture.

Ordinarily the Board does not report on the probable production of tree fruits at this early date, and the present estimates, it it pointed out, are purely tentative. The probable production of apricots is estimated at the equivalent of 82 per cent of the 1928 production; almonds, 45 per cent; cherries, 50 per cent; pears, 70 per cent; prunes, 77 per cent; cling-stone peaches, 38 per cent; and freestone peaches, 68 per cent.

The survey of the damage to California grapes indicates that Thompson's seedless grapes have been damaged to the extent of 30 to 40 per cent; Tokays in the principal areas, 40 per cent; Emperors, 20 per cent; black juice varieties, 10 to 30 per cent; Malagas, slight. A combined figure for all grapes is not yet available. Vegetable crops in scattered localities throughout the interior valleys have been damaged, but the extent has not been determined.

Comparable data for other years at this time of the season are not available, so that the Board has no means of judging the accuracy of the present report on probable production.

#### Fruit Canning Prospects in Porto Rico

Of the canning plants in operation in Porto Rico only one may be regarded as definitely out of the running for the season, according to information received in the Department of Commerce from the assistant trade commissioner at San Juan.

Those who are well informed in the trade state that the pineapple crop now maturing should about approximate that of last year as to both quantity and quality. Exact figures on the pack of last year are not available, but shipments amounted to some

2,281,000 pounds, or approximately 65,000 cases of canned pines. The amount to be canned this or any other season will depend largely, of course, on the prices for fresh pines. If these are good, canning activities will not be great; if they are poor, greater quantities of fruit will go to the canneries.

The grapefruit crop suffered severely, and until a few days ago, blossoming did not give much cause for encouragement. The pack last year is reported to have been somewhere between 350,000 and 400,000 cases. Reports have recently come in from the country sections, however, to the effect that grapefruit trees have just begun to show a very heavy bloom, with the result that the previous estimates of a pack of 50,000 cases of grapefruit this year will probably be increased materially.

#### Truck Crop Markets

Combined forwardings of 24 fruits and vegetables during the week ending April 13 totaled 16,145 cars, according to the U. S. Market News Service, and were 3,500 cars heavier than during early April, 1928.

Shipment of beans were heavy last week—325 cars from Florida and 50 from southern Texas. The crop of string beans in three early states is 14 per cent lighter than last year, totaling only 1,546,000 hampers. Most of the decrease is in Texas.

Movement of green peas in Mississippi began earlier than expected and amounted to 90 cars for the seven-day period. California shipped 130 cars of peas and South Carolina about 70 cars. Total movement of peas was three times that of a year ago. Three second-early states expect a combined crop of 1,965,000 hampers this season, mostly in California.

Because of the reduced acreage of strawberries in seven second-early states, the crop there may total only 87,000,000 quarts, as against 96,000,000 last year. All the leading states except Arkansas show much lighter production. Movement of berries was becoming heavy, totaling 950 cars for the week. Louisiana shipped 580, Alabama 250, Texas 90. Shipments were twice as heavy as a year ago. The season began in Mississippi and the Carolinas, with a combined total of 20 cars from those states.

The cabbage crop in seven second-early states may reach the high total of 138,000 tons, or 27,000 more than last spring. The Norfolk section of Virginia shows a sharp decrease from last season but material gains are reported in South Carolina, Alabama and Louisiana. Louisiana expects 45,000 tons and South Carolina 29,000.



Movement of Arizona lettuce probably was near its peak, when 975 cars rolled last week. Movement from California was very light—only 85 cars. The output of North and South Carolina together had increased to 50 cars.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	April 7-13 1929	Mar. 31 April 6 1929	April 8-14 1929	Total this season to April 13	Total last season to April 14	Total last season
Apples, total	692	694	536	123,503	89,114	93,094
Eastern states	237	241	227	60,756	43,281	44,415
Western states	455	453	309	62,749	45,833	48,679
Asparagus	235	243	405	826	1,384	2,878
Cabbage, 1929 season	882	802	433	10,901	8,218	38,530
Carrots, 1929 season	214	294	130	4,787	2,783	7,448
Cauliflower	160	206	198	8,437	8,161	9,046
Green peas	290	197	102	1,177	938	4,689
Mixed vegetables:						
Domestic	947	968	794	11,061	11,364	33,360
Imports	4	4	14	147	323	338
Pears	58	39	12	24,306	19,717	18,744
Peppers:						
Domestic	103	77	77	904	1,345	8,367
Imports	3	10	12	329	653	743
Spinach	390	369	304	8,533	8,313	10,591
Strawberries	952	746	483	3,379	1,409	18,715
String beans	378	303	125	2,264	1,955	6,707
Tomatoes:						
Domestic	313	235	356	4,390	2,325	30,857
Imports	271	290	353	5,162	4,353	5,523

Fruit in Cold Storage

Cold storage holdings of fruit on April 1, as reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, were:

	April 1, 1929	April 1, 1928	5-year average
Apples:			
Barrels	630,000	501,000	1,182,000
Boxes	4,901,000	4,060,000	4,834,000
Baskets	1,305,000	900,000	662,000
Pears:			
Boxes	284,000	168,000	109,000
Barrels	5,000	5,000	5,000
Frozen and preserved fruits (pounds)	48,468,000	40,137,000	25,992,000

Weather Conditions

The weather of the week ended April 16 permitted good progress to fairly satisfactory advance in field work in the middle Atlantic area and in most of the South, according to the U. S. Weather Bureau, though heavy rains in the former at the close of the week, and considerable precipitation in some areas of the latter at other times, caused more or less interruption. The latter part of the week was cool, but much of the time temperatures were favorable for growth in the South, while generous rains relieved the droughty conditions in the Florida Peninsula, with great benefit to vegetation, particularly citrus fruit, which were suffering. Moisture is still needed in parts of the Southwest, especially in New Mexico and western Texas.

In the interior valleys the recent warm weather advanced vegetation to much ahead of an average year, but temperatures

were not low enough to do material damage, and fruits are mostly still safe. Growth was checked by the cooler weather, and, at the same time, extensive precipitation again interrupted field work. There was some local plowing and seeding, but seasonal activities were slow.

In the more northern States conditions were likewise unfavorable for outside operations during most of the week. Heavy, wet snow fell in much of the northern Plains the first part of the period, and snowfall up to depths of 18 inches was reported from some points in northern New England. As a result, little field operation was possible in these sections.

In the far Northwest continued coolness further retarded the season, which is now some two weeks behind an average year. Growth was slow generally west of the Rocky Mountains because of coolness, and snows, or cold rains, were detrimental to livestock, especially young lambs.

#### Business Conditions

The volume of money turnover during the week ended April 13, as indicated by check payments, showed a decline from the preceding week but was greater than a year ago, according to the weekly statement of the Department of Commerce.

Distribution of goods, as reflected by carloadings for the latest available week, was running somewhat higher than a year ago.

The general level of wholesale prices again receded from the previous week, and was lower also than a year ago.

Loans and discounts of Federal reserve member banks showed some recession from the previous week but were higher than a year ago.

Business failures were greater in number than in either the preceding week or the same period of 1928.

#### CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended April 6 .....	956,364	408,763	266,887	285,714
Preceding week .....	967,029	415,244	265,854	285,931
Corresponding week, 1928 .....	919,332	374,538	263,317	281,477
Corresponding week, 1927 .....	933,907	380,449	262,946	310,512

#### Wholesale and Retail Prices in March

The general level of wholesale prices in March was approximately three-fourths of 1 per cent above that of February, according to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, and 1½ per cent above that of March last year. Among foods there were increases



for fresh and cured meats, and decreases for butter and flour. The group as a whole showed no change in the general price level.

The retail food index issued by the Bureau shows for March 15, 1929, a decrease of a little less than 1 per cent since February 15, 1929; and an increase of a little more than 1 per cent since March 15, 1928. From February 15 to March 15 the average price of red canned salmon decreased 1 per cent; canned tomatoes increased 2 per cent, and baked beans 1 per cent. No changes occurred in the average prices of evaporated milk, corn, and peas.

#### Farm Prices

The general average of prices received by producers was higher in March than in February and also above last year's level. For March 15, the index of farm prices averaged 140, compared with 136 on February 15 and 137 a year ago. Higher prices for cotton, and livestock, particularly hogs, contributed most to the general advance in farm prices, which was only partly offset by a somewhat less than seasonal decline in egg prices.

In the past four weeks, since March 15, prices of grains, potatoes, cotton, wool, butter, eggs, and hogs have declined, while cattle prices have advanced somewhat. These recent changes have offset part of the advance which was shown in the farm price index for March.

#### Employment in March

Employment increased 0.8 per cent in March, 1929, as compared with February, and pay-roll totals increased 1 per cent, according to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This report is based upon returns from 27,625 establishments having in March 4,815,598 employees whose combined earnings in one week were \$134,009,899. The classes of employment included were manufacturing, mining, public utilities, trade, and hotels.

Manufacturing employment stood at a higher level in March, 1929, than at any time since April, 1927, and pay-roll totals were greater than at any time since November, 1923. Employment in manufacturing industries increased 1.2 per cent in March, 1929, as compared with February, and pay-roll totals increased 2.1 per cent, according to returns made by 12,138 establishments. The level of employment in March, 1929, was 5.2 per cent higher than in March, 1928, and pay-roll totals were 9.1 per cent higher.

Per capita earnings of employees in March, 1929, were 0.9 per cent higher than in February, 1929, and 3.7 per cent higher than in March, 1928.

In March, 1929, 9,413 establishments reported an average of 92 per cent of a full normal force of employees and an average of 98 per cent of full-time operation.

#### Army to Purchase Large Quantity of Canned Tomatoes

The Quartermaster Supply Officer of the New York General Depot, 1st Avenue and 59th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y., has announced that that office will be in the market for approximately 24,000 No. 10 cans and 1,300,000 No. 2½ or No. 3 cans of best standard tomatoes when the 1929 crop becomes available.

Invitation for bids covering this quantity f. o. b. consuming stations in the United States (except Pacific Coast states) or f. o. b. origin, at option of bidder, will be sent to all canners and dealers who desire to submit bids on this commodity.

In the letter sent to canners the Quartermaster Supply Officer states:

"It will be appreciated if you will indicate with the return of this letter in enclosed envelope, which requires no postage, whether or not you desire to bid on any of this business. Bids will be considered on all or any part of the quantities to be purchased and must be accompanied by security in the amount of 10 per cent of the aggregate price. Security may be furnished in the form of certified check, United States bonds, or a bond executed by approved sureties.

"Failure to return this communication will be taken as an indication of disinterestedness and bidding blanks will not be furnished."

#### Holabird Depot to Purchase Canned Foods

The Holabird Quartermaster Depot at Baltimore, Md., is asking for bids, to be opened April 25, on a large number of canned foods for delivery on or before June 20. Copies of the circular proposal No. 398-29-72 can be obtained by addressing the Purchasing and Contracting Officer of the Depot at Baltimore. The canned foods on which bids are asked include apple butter, apples, apricots, asparagus, baked beans, string beans, beets, blackberries, blueberries, catsup, corn, whole-grained style, crabmeat, grapefruit, hominy, loganberries, peaches, pears, peas, pineapple, rhubarb, salmon, sardines, sauerkraut, sausage, shrimp, soup and spinach.

### Wholesalers Slow to Respond in Chain Store Investigation

Wholesale dealers of the country are not responding readily to a questionnaire sent them recently in connection with the Federal Trade Commission's chain store investigation, according to the Commission's monthly statement of its work.

Returns continued to be received during the last month, but while a few hundred wholesalers have furnished full and adequate answers, there have been no replies from the bulk of the trade.

The wholesalers' questionnaire preceded the general questionnaire which was sent to chain store systems of the country as announced by the Commission on April 13.

### Bill Proposes Standards for Jams, Jellies and Preserves

A bill (H. R. 1013) has been introduced in the House by Representative Reed of New York, which would define fruit jams, preserves, jellies, and other products, provide standards therefore, require the labeling thereof, and regulate traffic therein. The bill is similar to H. R. 12693, in the last session of Congress, upon which no action was taken.

### Proposed Change in Fresh Tomato Freight Rate Suspended

Schedules filed by carriers proposing to establish, effective April 13, a commodity rate basis for tomatoes in lug boxes from southeastern producing points to northern and eastern destinations, have been suspended by the Interstate Commerce Commission until November 13. The proposed schedules would result generally in charges in excess of the present class basis.

### Rate Decision on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Rates on fresh fruits and vegetables in straight or mixed carloads from points in New York and Virginia to Tallahassee, Fla., are not unreasonable, but unduly prejudicial, according to a decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission, which has prescribed nonprejudicial rates for the future.

### Shipments of Stavanger Fish to United States

Exports of canned fish from the Stavanger district of Norway to the United States in 1928 totaled 25,509,728 pounds as compared with 27,453,460 pounds in 1927. In these two years the United States took 52 and 53 per cent, respectively, of the total canned fish exports from the district. The following table

shows the quantity and value of the exports to the United States:

	1927		1928	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Musca sardines .....	11,678,554	\$1,493,893	11,896,821	\$1,371,114
Bristling sardines .....	9,883,609	1,700,664	6,111,860	1,065,130
Canned herring .....	4,301,022	307,447	5,817,956	365,238
All other canned fish .....	1,390,255	144,418	1,728,091	144,162
	27,453,460	3,616,412	25,509,728	2,945,644

#### Siamese Market for American Foodstuffs

American sardines are very popular in Siam, according to a report on the market for American foodstuffs in that country just issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The annual imports of sardines are valued at over \$400,000, of which the United States supply more than 80 per cent.

Canned milk imports into Siam are valued at about \$1,000,000. Purchases of canned fruits and vegetables are very small as they are consumed principally by Europeans and the highest class of Asiatic population. The total trade in canned fruits and vegetables does not exceed \$25,000 or \$30,000.

#### Mexico Reduces Export Duty on Fish

Effective May 13, the rate of export duty in Mexico on fish and fresh shell fish, not specified, (Fraction 18-D of the tariff) will be reduced from 1.03 per gross kilo to 1.50 pesos per 100 gross kilos, according to a cable to the Department of Commerce from the American commercial attache at Mexico City.

#### Control of Bean Blight

While some progress has been made in breeding blight-resistant strains of beans, the best method of control available at present is to procure all seeds from certain arid sections in the West where weather conditions apparently hinder the development and spread of the disease. According to the annual report of the Director of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station, repeated trials have shown that seed from such sources produces a crop free from bacterial blight.

#### Cherry Pollination Studies

Results of cherry pollination studies conducted during the last four years by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Wooster, Ohio, are presented in Bulletin 422 of that station. The report is supplemented with a comprehensive statement of the literature on the subject.